

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. released the following statement today regarding the Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) endorsement of his proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to health care of equal high quality (H.J. Res. 30):

"I am honored to have the IPHCA join me in the battle to bring equal high quality health care to every American. This widely-respected organization is well aware of the need not only for individual health care, but for an overhaul of the nation's health care system.

"More than 41 million Americans are uninsured, about the same number are under-insured and we're just beginning a significant assault on health disparities. We are led to believe that our nation does not have the resources to do better. We have the resources. What we don't seem to have is the political will. If we can afford another tax cut skewed toward the wealthiest Americans, then we can afford to do better when it comes to health care.

"I look forward to working with IPHCA to transform the 'separate and Unequal' health care systems of 50 states, 3,067 counties, tens of thousands of municipalities and more than 1,000 health plans into a system that provides EVERY American with health care of equal high quality."

IPHCA President and CEO Bruce A. Johnson said in a letter informing Congressman Jackson of the endorsement:

"HJR 30 is another example of [Congressman Jackson's] commitment to the proposition that health care for all Americans is a priority and deserves a front and center seat in our national dialogue. The need for such a dialogue and ultimate action on health care coverage could not come at a more pressing time. In fact, the dilemma of the uninsured continues to wreck havoc on a national health care delivery system whose resources are stretched to its limits. Data collected and analyzed by IPHCA show that community health centers serving Chicago and surrounding communities have seen a 38% jump in the number of people they are serving who have no health insurance."